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Forest Insect Laboratory,
445 U. S. Court House,
Portland, Oregon,
November 4, 1940.

Mr. J. F. Kimball,
Box 272,
Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Kimball:

After writing you on October 17 in respect to the proposed beetle control projects in your area, Mr. Bedard made a special cruise of the Currier Camp Unit to check upon infestation conditions and to see if control work should be recommended for that unit.

By running strips, Mr. Bedard made a 16% cruise of the 1700 acres proposed as a control unit mostly in Secs. 35 and 36, T 32S, R 15E. His strips showed a total 1940 loss of 290 summer trees and 200 winter trees on the 1700 acres or about 75 winter trees per section. He noted a heavy concentration of winter trees along the road running through Sections 35 and 36, with groups of 8, 4 and 3 winter trees per group, but this grouping of trees was not general through the rest of the area.

Strips were also run through the rest of T 32S R 15E and through the township immediately south (T 33S R 15E). In addition to the proposed control area, Secs. 34, 33, 28 and 21 in T 32S R 15E showed an infestation of overwintering brood trees about equal to that within the area. Other outlying areas showed very light infestation of both summer and winter trees.

It is evident that, as you reported, this infestation is definitely epidemic in character and as yet confined to a comparatively small area. On the other hand, Mr. Bedard's strips and our sample plots show a drop in infestation between 1939 and 1940 and a marked drop between the summer generation and winter brood trees. For instance, on our half section check plot in Sec. 22, summer brood trees totalled 21 but only 3 winter trees could be found when it was cruised on September 21.

While undoubtedly the safest plan would be to cover the area of heaviest infestation with control work, in my judgment, the trend of

infestation is such that it could be left untreated this year without serious consequences. According to my analysis of July 31, 1939 ("A preliminary Analysis of Pine-Beetle Hazard Conditions in the Klamath Subregion, Oregon"), this is an area of low hazard, and should return to normal rather than continue in an epidemic status. If it were my timber I would be inclined to take a chance on the epidemic declining and a normal balance being restored, rather than spend the money required for a control treatment.

In any case, it would be my recommendation that this project be given a lower priority than the other areas which you list for treatment this year.

Sincerely yours,

F. P. Keen,
Senior Entomologist,
Forest Insect Investigations

CC: Regional Office
Supervisor Harriman
Mr. Orr
Dr. Craighead